

USE OF THE INTERNET BY STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

SECTION 2.0 Use

2.1 Acceptable Use

The purpose of NSFNet, which is the Internet backbone network, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of the Internet must be in support of education and consistent with the educational objectives of the West Virginia Board of Education. Use of other networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Users must also be in compliance with the rules and regulations of West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing (WVNET) policies: “WVNET Telecommunications Policy” and “WVNET Computer Abuse Policy.” Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state law or regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secrets. Use for commercial activities by for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use is also prohibited. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.

2.2 Privileges

The use of the Internet as part of an educational program is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Each student who will access the Internet will be part of a discussion group with teachers pertaining to the proper use of the network. Based upon acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the West Virginia Department (WVDE) and West Virginia Network for Educational telecomputing system administrators will deem that what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the system administrators and/or local teachers may deny user access at any time as required.

2.3 Network Etiquette

Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal the personal home address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.

- Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Messages relating to or support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Do not use the Internet in such a way that would disrupt the use of the Internet by other users (e.g., downloading huge files during prime time; sending mass e-mail messages; annoying other users).

2.4 Reliability

The WVDE and WVNET make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service being provided. The WVDE and WVNET will not be responsible for any damages. This includes loss of data or service interruptions. The use of any information obtained via the system is at the user's own risk. WVDE and WVNET deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the system.

2.5 Security

Users who identify a security problem on the system must notify a system administrator. Users must not demonstrate the problem to other users. Users must not use another individual's account nor give their passwords to others. Attempts to log into the system as any other user will result in cancellation of user privileges. Attempts to log into any system as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.

2.6 Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, or any connections that are part of the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, uploading, downloading or creating computer viruses.

SECTION 3.0 Implementation

3.1 County Boards of Education

The Braxton County Board of Education shall ensure implementation of this policy in a method that promotes proper use of the Internet. Prior to Internet access, all parents of student users must provide written permission (see attached letter). These permission forms will be kept on file at the school.

3.2 West Virginia Department of Education

The West Virginia Department of Education shall provide technical assistance to support county school systems and schools in implementing this policy. The West Virginia Department of Education will also provide assistance to RESA's, counties, and schools that wish to develop local use policies.

REFERENCES

WVDE. SBP 2460. Use of the Internet by Students and Educators. 1994.

WVNET. Document A105. WVNET Computer Abuse Policy. 1994.

WVNET. Document 023.0. WVNET Operational Policy. 1993.

Braxton County Schools
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Dear Parents,

Students at _____ School now have an opportunity to learn and to communicate through the Internet. This worldwide computer network opens up a universe of resources. Each student will have the privilege to use the Internet; however, the privilege can only be granted with your consent and your son/daughter's agreement to follow guidelines given by system administrators and teachers. Below are important excerpts from West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2460, Use of the Internet by Students and Educators.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Access to the Internet will provide students and educators with:

- electronic mail communication
- information and news services
- public domain and shareware software of all types
- discussion groups on a variety of subjects
- connections to many libraries, companies, agencies and businesses

With connections to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of appropriate educational value. On a global network, it is impossible to restrict access to controversial materials. It is the responsibility of the student, parent, teacher and administrator to ensure that access to telecommunication networks and computers provided by the school system is not abused.

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Thank you for reading these critical regulations of WVDE Policy 2460. If you agree with the guidelines and give your permission for your son/daughter to use the Internet, please sign and return to _____.

I, _____, give my permission for _____
Parent's signature son/daughter

to use the Internet with the understanding that inappropriate use will result in the loss of this privilege for the year.

I, _____, understand and agree to follow the guidelines stated in this document, realizing any violation will mean loss of the privilege to use the Internet.